Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES

NO.27 AUG.

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Enter The Exotic And Exciting World Of...

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

DIRECT EDITION

KNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-SEVEN
THE FIRST DATE
PART TWO OF THREE

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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

OUR STORY THUS FAR...

UPON HEARING OF CHARMY'S ENGAGEMENT TO SAFRON, VECTOR IS CHALLENGED BY THE CHAOTIX TO LAND HIMSELF A DATE. MEANWHILE, JULIE-SU IS IN A FUNK ABOUT HER UNCERTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH KNUCKLES AND ENDS UP MEETING RAYNOR, A SON TO THE MORE PROMINENT ECHIDNA LINEAGES. AS FOR KNUCKLES, HE FINDS HIMSELF ASKING ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES, IN PARTICULAR HIS FEELINGS FOR JULIE-SU, AND DECIDES TO TAKE ACTION...

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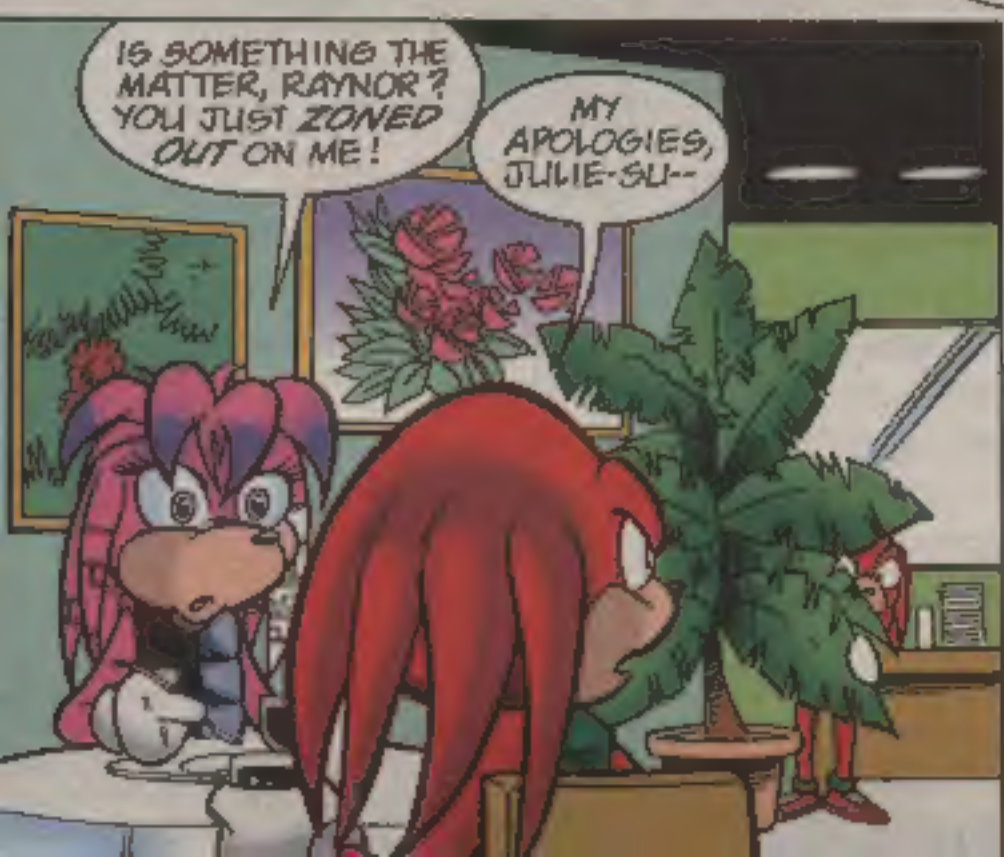
ARCHY!

HAS YOUR ANTENNAE SCRAMBLED THE RECEPTION TO YOUR BRAIN?!

WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU BRING US TO THIS HIGH-FALOOTIN' HANG OUT?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH JULIE-SU, M'BOY!

SHE'S OVER THERE!



Whoops!
KRASH!
I'M SORRY.
DIDN'T MEAN TO TAKE A WRONG TURN THERE!
Uh-- ABOUT THESE DISHES-- I-- ER--
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR ANY DAMAGES YOU'VE DONE IS WHAT YOU'LL DO, YOU BUMBLING MISCREANT!!

Uh-- YEAH-- SURE, IF YOU'LL JUST TELL ME --
OH MY--!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE ON THE FLOOR?!!
I--uh-- I'M JUST TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE MESS I --MADE!

GET UP OFF THAT FLOOR THIS INSTANT!!!
MAY I OFFER MY MOST SINCERE APOLOGIES? YOU HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO!
Huh?

WHY, YOU'RE THE GUARDIAN!!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE SERVED ANYONE OF YOUR STATURE!
PLEASE PARDON MY SUPREME IGNORANCE!
I'LL HAVE ONE OF THE HIRED HELP CLEAN THAT!
ON SECOND THOUGHT, ALLOW ME!
NO! NO! IT WAS MY FAULT!
I CAN CLEAN IT UP!
HOPEFULLY BEFORE ANYONE ELSE SEES OR RECOGNIZES ME!

Who Wrote The BOOK OF LOVE Anyway?
STOP
WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME, RAYNOR?
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
BUT, OF COURSE!

NONSENSE!
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE OUR HONORED GUEST!
KNUCKLES! INCOMING AT TWELVE O' CLOCK!
WHA--?

ARCHY! I CAN'T LET JULIE-GU SEE ME LIKE THIS!
WHY NOT?
MAYBE SHE'LL TAKE PITY ON YOU!

YEAH! RIGHT! JUST WHAT I NEED!
C'MON, BE A PAL!

WAIT!!
DOWN!
?

YES, MADAM! MAY I HELP YOU?
I COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD SOMEONE I KNOW!
I GUESS I WAS MISTAKEN--
--NOT!

AND IF IT WAS--
I'D BET ANYTHING THAT WAS KNUCKLES' VOICE!

"--HE'S SURE GOING TO HEAR AN *EARFUL* FROM ME!"

I DON'T GET IT, ARCHY!

I'M READY TO BUTT HEADS WITH THE *BADDEST* HARDCASES AROUND--

--YET WHEN IT COMES TO ONE SINGLE *GIRL*--

--I TURN TO *JELLO*!

GO FIGURE!

YOU *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?

UNLIKE WE *FIRE-ANTS*, YOU ECHIDNAS HAVEN'T A *ROMANTIC* BONE IN YOUR BODY!

THAT'S WHY *NATURE* STEPPED IN AND PROVIDED THE *SOULTOUCH* TO HELP YOU ALONG!

YEAH, SO MY *DAD* SAYS!

WONDER IF *HE* HAD IT THIS BAD OVER *MOM*?

YOU'D BE *SURPRISED*!

PROBABLY NO MORE SO THAN IF I DISCOVERED ONE OF THE GUYS WAS *DATING* SOMEONE!

SPEAKING OF WHICH--

VIDEO

GAM

" --LOOK WHO JUST MADE THE SCENE!"
OH--FATHER!
HAVE YOU SEEN KNUCKLES AROUND LATELY?

NOT SINCE DINNER LAST NIGHT! WHY?
IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?

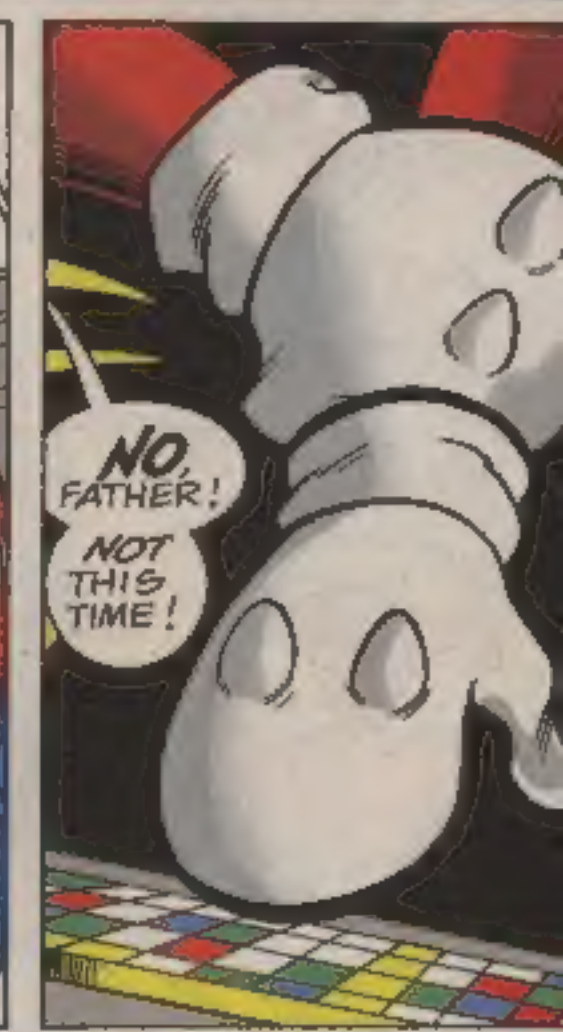
NO! NOT AT ALL!
WE WERE JUST HAVING BREAKFAST, I HAD TO STEP OUT OF THE ROOM--

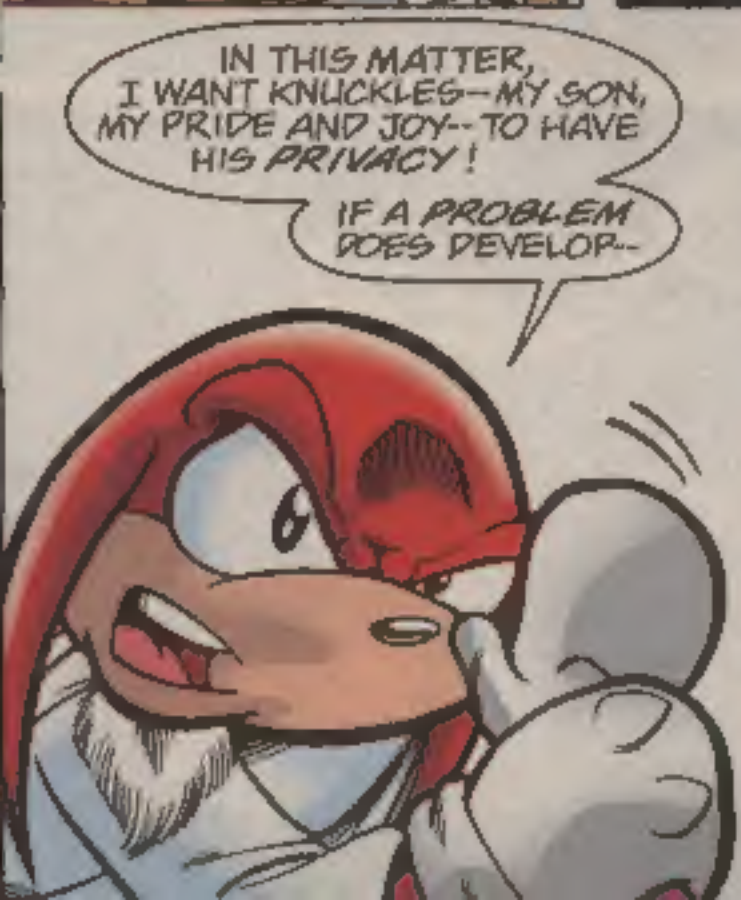
--AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW-- HE WAS GONE!
YOU DON'T THINK--?
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM!

PUT WHAT PAST WHO?
YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WHAT I THINK YOU ARE, ARE YOU?
THAT DEPENDS ON WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE THINKING!
YOU CAN'T HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT!
THIS IS ABOUT WHAT KNUCKLES WAS DISCUSSING WITH ME, ISN'T IT?

ARCHIMEDES OVERHEARD AND OBVIOUSLY STUCK HIS NOSE IN WHERE IT DIDN'T BELONG FOR ONCE!

BUT, WHY?





" NOW, THERE GOES A CASE OF THE *BLIND* LEADING THE BLIND!"

NOW WATCH *THE MAN* STRUT HIS STUFF!

KRRTNG!

SOME STRUT! YOU ST L L HAVEN'T GOTTEN A *DATE* YET!

IT'S ALL ABOUT *TIMING*, ESPY!

LIKE THIS GAME YOU MAKE YOUR *MOVES* AT THE *RIGHT* MOMENT--

-- AND YOU END UP SCOR NG *BIG-TIME* !

CIRCUITS AND KNOBS ARE ONE THING, VECTOR-

- BUT A *GIRL* IS QUITE ANOTHER!

YEAH!

TELL A GIRL YOU CONSIDER *HER* A *PLAYTHING* AND SEE WHERE *THAT* GETS YOU!

LOOK AT *KNUCKLES*, FOR INSTANCE!

WHAT ABOUT H M ?

I NEVER SEE HIM TREAT JULIE-SU ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY HE DOES US!

THE HOMEBOY HAS HIS WIRES CROSSED, IF Y'ASK ME!

WHAT DOES HE KNOW?

HE'D BE TRIPPING OVER HIS SNEAKERS IF HE HAD ANY!

YOU'RE BLOWING WIND, VECTOR! KNUCKLES IS NOBODY'S FOOL!

HAH! IF SHE HAD HIM WRAPPED ANY TIGHTER, HE'D SWAP!

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

SAY, KNUX! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW?!!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

THERE'S A GIRL I MAY BE IN LOVE WITH AND I HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR TRASH!!!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST--GET--OFF--MY--CASE, YOU--CRAZY--CROC!!!

EASY, KNUCKLES! CHILL!!

VECTOR DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM!

GET OUTTA MY FACE, GUYS!!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU--

AND YOU KNOW HOW VECTOR RUNS OFF AT THE MOUTH!

LET IT GO, MAN!

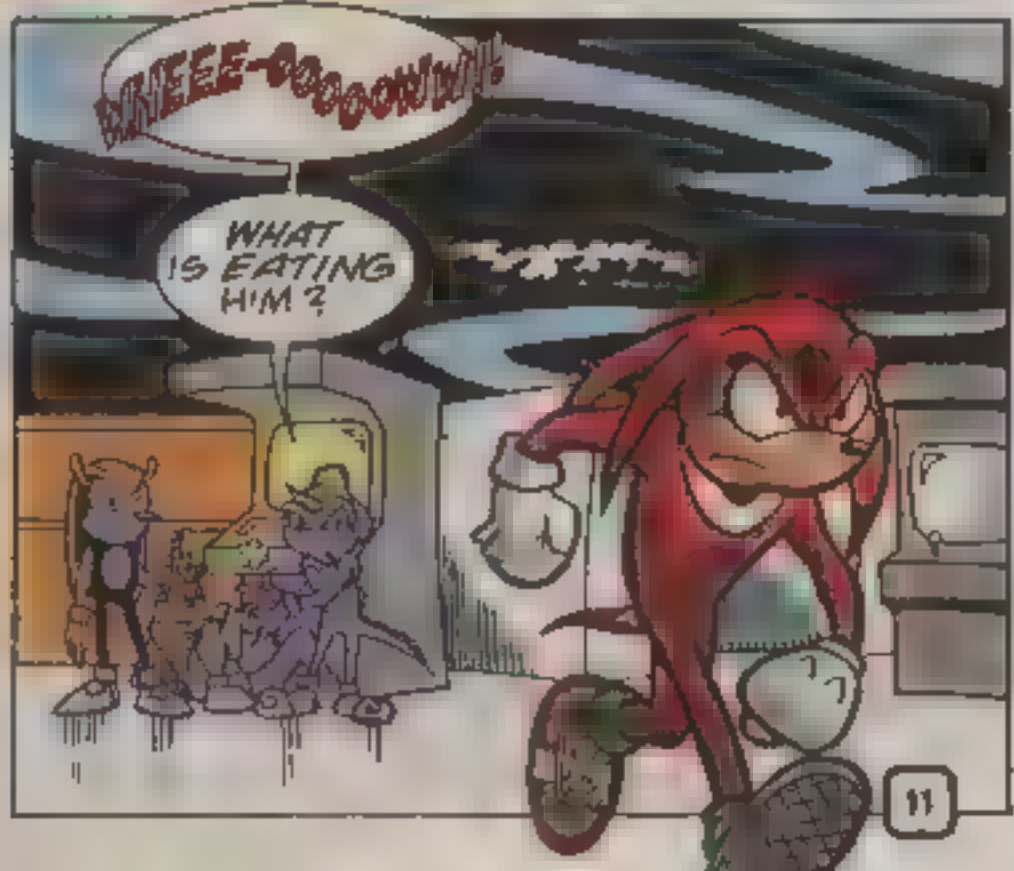
I'D ISSUE A KING-SIZED APOLOGY RIGHT ABOUT NOW IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES, VEC!

HEY, KNUX!

DIDN'T MEAN TO RAZZ YOU!

I JUST GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY, 'S ALL!

SORRY!



WHAT YOU'VE JUST WITNESSED IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF ECHIDNAOPHYLUS ENRAPTURITIS, OR IN LAYMAN'S TERMS--

"--THAT BOY IS *ONE LOVESICK PUPPY*!"

I HAD *A REALLY* GREAT TIME, JULIE-SU!

I WOULDN'T MIND *REPEATING* THE EXPERIENCE!

I'D BE *LYING* IF I SAID I *DIDN'T* ENJOY MYSELF OR THAT THE COMPANY I KEPT *WASN'T* WONDERFUL!

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE!

FAIR ENOUGH! I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT!

GOOD NIGHT, FAIR DAMSEL!

GOOD NIGHT, KINDER!

...sigh...

"JUST *MY* LUCK THE ONE THAT WANTS ME *ISN'T* THE ONE I WANT.."

NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT!

I REALLY *LOST* IT BACK THERE!

AND IF IT WERE *ANYONE* BUT VECTOR, I MIGHT FEEL INCLINED TO *APOLOGIZE*--

--BUT HE *DEFINITELY* HAD THAT *COMING*!

IT'S ABOUT TIME HE GOT OVER IT AND OFF OF JULIE SU'S CASE!

SAY!

IF I EVER *NEEDED* SOMEONE TO *TALK* TO--

--MAYBE GETTING *MOM'S* PERSPECTIVE MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A BAD THING!

I MEAN-- SHE'S A *GIRL*-- JUST LIKE *JULIE-SU* IS!

EVENING, YOUNG GUARDIAN!

HERE TO SEE YOUR MOTHER?

AH--er-- *NO*!

JUST PASSING BY!

WHO'S *KIDDING* WHO?

ALL I'M DOING IS PUTTING OFF THE *INEVITABLE*!

EITHER I *ASK* HER--

1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open only to legal residents of the 50 states in the United States and the District of Columbia, who are 12 years of age or younger at the time of entry. Employees of Nabisco Biscuit Company, Nabisco, Inc., The Walt Disney Co., participating retail stores, their respective affiliates, subsidiaries, and agencies, their immediate families, and members of the same household of such employees are not eligible to enter or win.

2. ENTRY. Between May 23, 1999 and August 15, 1999 compete in a "Local Contest" at a participating retail store selling Nabisco Oreo cookies. To compete, go to the specially designated "contest table," complete an official entry form and then build a stack of Oreo cookies under the supervision of the independent judging agency. One entry (that is, one opportunity to compete at a participating retail store) per person. Contestants will have 30 seconds to stack as many Oreo cookies as possible to build a self-standing, single tower. In constructing the tower, cookies must not be broken or tampered with in any way, and contestants must stack cookies independently, without assistance of any kind, in the sole determination of the independent judging agency. The contestant who stacks the most cookies that remain standing for 3 seconds after the 30-second period ends qualifies as a Semifinalist.

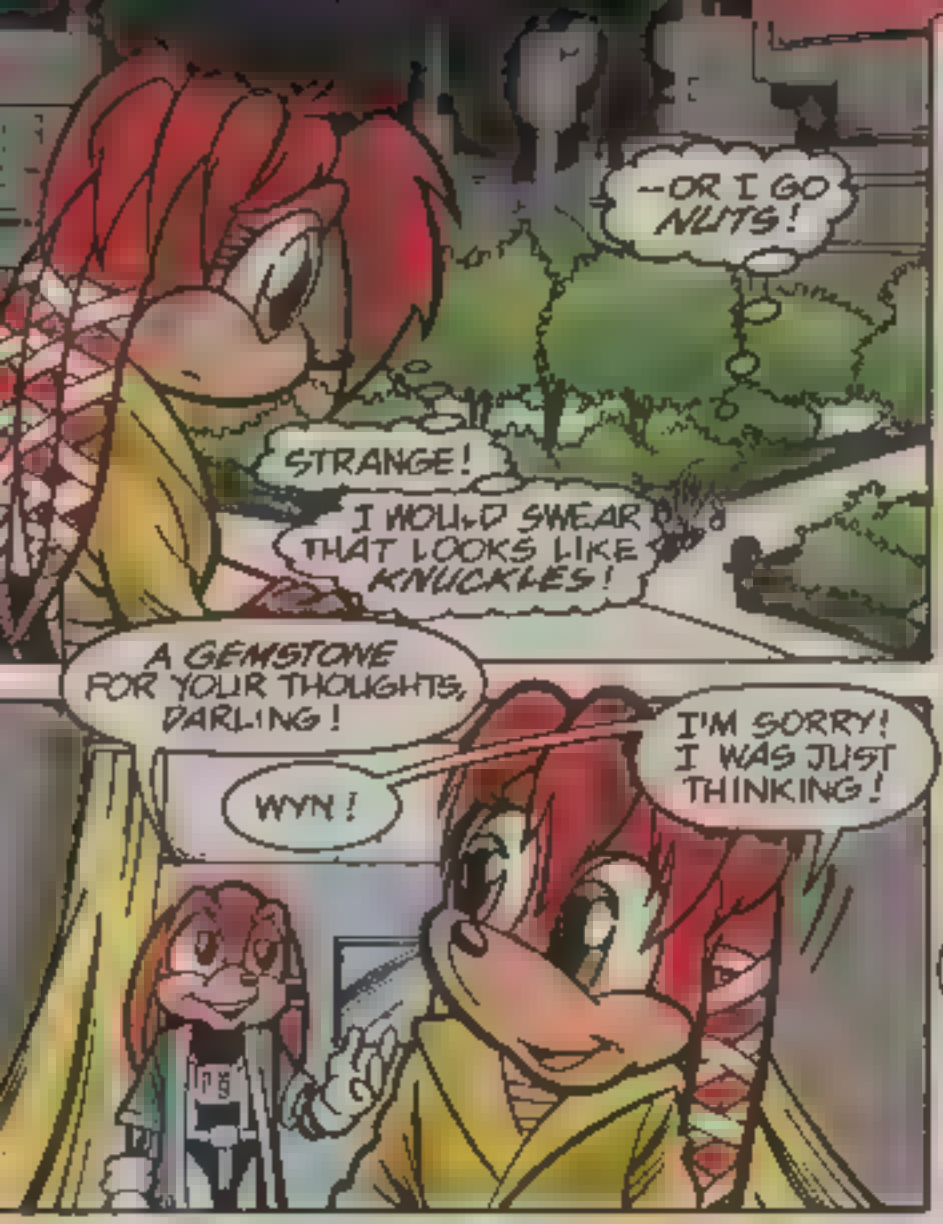
3. CONTEST STRUCTURE. For all levels of the Contest, contestants will participate in two age groups (7 years of age or younger, 8 through 12 years of age). There will be [illegible] "Local Contest" per participating retail store in each Local Contest, 2 contestants will qualify as Semifinalists, [illegible] per age group. For schedule information for "Local Contests," see your local participating retailer, call 1-800-OMLY-OREO or visit our website at WWW.OREO.COM. From all participating retail stores, Semifinalists' names/birthdates (and both parents' and the height of each Semifinalist's stack will be forwarded to another independent judging organization. On or about October 30, 1999, the independent judging organization will rank the Semifinalists, determining the 10 Semifinalists in each age group with the highest stacks. These 20 Semifinalists will qualify as Finalists, and will each receive a Finalist Prize in addition to the Semifinalist Prize. To determine the Grand Prize winners, Finalists will compete in the "National Stacking Finals" on or about November 6, 1999 in Orlando, Florida. In the sole determination of the independent judging agency supervising the "National Stacking Finals," the Finalist in each age group who creates the highest stack in the "National Stacking Finals" will win a Grand Prize (in addition to the Finalist Prize and the Semifinalist Prize).

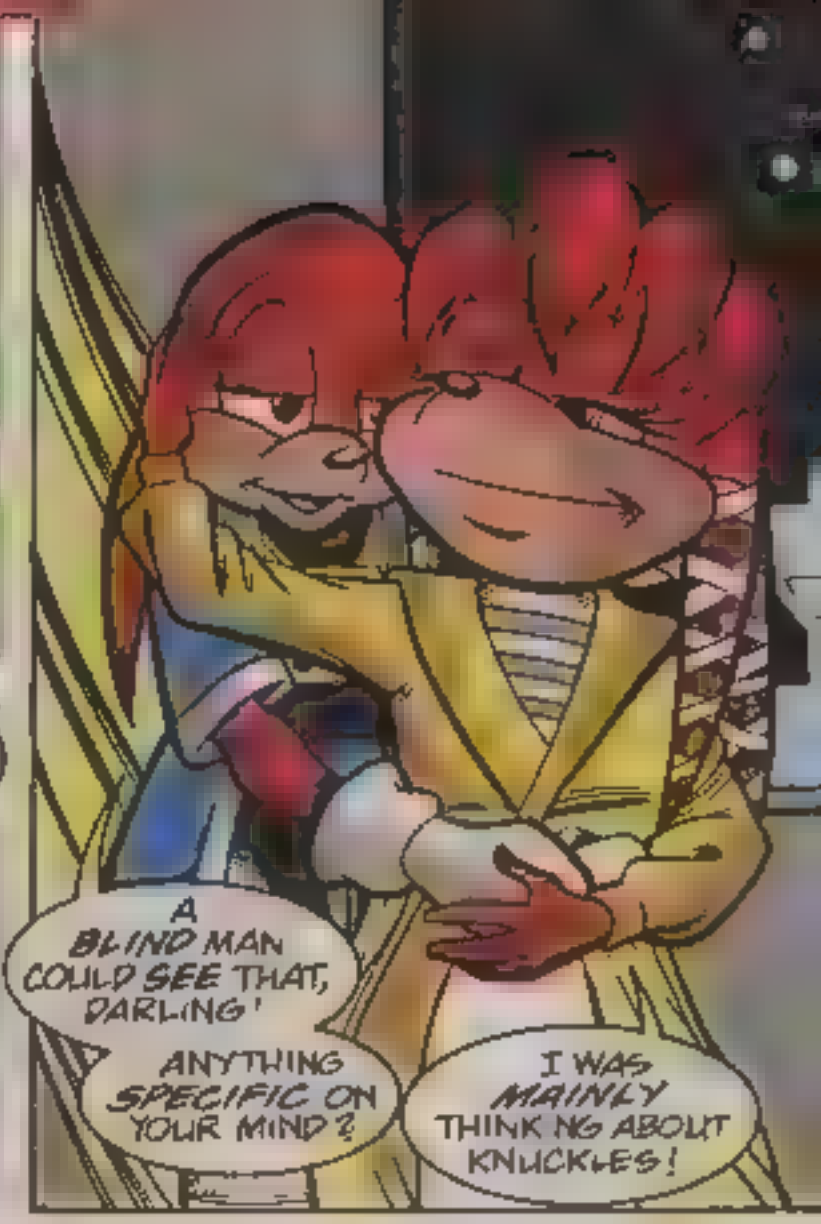
4. PRIZES. Grand Prize (2, 1 per age group): U.S. Series EE Savings Bond worth $20,000 at maturity; a 1-year supply of Oreo cookies (52 packages); 3-day/2-night trip for 2 to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on dates selected by Sponsor between December 1, 1999 and March 1, 2000 to appear in a walk-on role on Disney's "Honey, I Shrunk The Kids: The TV Show." Trip consists of roundtrip coach air transportation between major commercial airport nearest winner's residence and Calgary; ground transfers between Calgary airport and hotel; 2 nights standard hotel accommodations (double occupancy). Approximate Retail Value: $14,100 each. Finalist Prize (20, 10 per age group): 3-day/2-night trip for 2 to Orlando, Florida (November 6, 1999 to November 9, 1999) where winner will participate in the "National Stacking Finals." Trip consists of roundtrip coach air transportation between major commercial airport nearest winner's residence and Orlando; ground transfers between Orlando airport and hotel; 2 nights standard hotel accommodations (double occupancy); 2 DisneyQuest passes for 2 days; 2 Walt Disney World 5-day hopper passports; and $300 spending money. Approximate Retail Value: $2,527 each. Semifinalist Prize (approximately 30,000, but actual number is determined by number of participating retail stores, 1 winner per age group per store): Oreo Stacking Game. Approximate Retail Value: $6.95 each. For Grand/Finalist Prizes: (a) winner must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian on all major travel; (b) winner and parent/legal guardian must travel together; (c) all unspecified expenses are winner's sole responsibility; (d) prize trip must be taken on indicated dates. For Grand Prize, if winner is unavailable on stated dates, prize will be forfeited. For Finalist Prize, if winner is unavailable on stated dates, prize will be forfeited, with an alternate Finalist selected. For Grand Prize, winner is solely responsible for obtaining any necessary travel documents. Walk-on role is subject to availability and other restrictions. No prize transfer. No prize substitution or cash equivalent of prize except at sole discretion of Sponsor (but in prize unavailability for any reason, and only then for prize of comparable value). Prizes may be awarded to parent/legal guardian on winner's behalf. All taxes on prizes are the sole responsibility of winners.

5. CONDITIONS. Void where prohibited by law. Subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. All entries submitted become the sole property of sponsor and will not be returned. Sponsor and its agencies are not responsible for incomplete, illegible, lost, misdirected, damaged, destroyed, delayed or late entries. Sponsor and its agencies are not responsible for submissions from participating retail stores that are late, lost, misdirected, damaged, destroyed, delayed, postage due or contain errors. In the event of tie in determining Semifinalists/Finalists, the winner will be the youngest contestant as determined by time and date of birth. In the event of tie in the "National Stacking Finals," additional rounds of the stacking competition will be conducted until one winner is determined for each age group. Semifinalist winners will be announced at the conclusion of each "Local Contest," but no later than August 15, 1999. Semifinalist winners will be notified (with prizes awarded) at the retail store. If not present, winner will be notified by phone and must return to the store at a later time to collect the prize. Winners of Finalist Prizes will be notified by mail or phone no later than October 25, 1999. Grand Prize winners will be announced at the "National Stacking Finals" and will receive confirmation by mail. For Grand and Finalist Prizes, parents/legal guardians of winners will be required to execute before a Notary Public, an affidavit, a liability/publicity release and a publicity release (where legal) on the winner's behalf, to be returned within 10 days of notification. Guests of Grand and Finalist Prize winners must execute and return a liability release and a publicity release (where legal), prior to issuance of travel documents. For Grand Prize, non-compliance with these requirements may result in prize forfeiture. For Finalist Prize, non-compliance may result in prize forfeiture, with an alternate Finalist selected by participating retailer. Contestants agree to abide by these official rules and the decisions of all judges, which are final and binding in all respects. Sponsor is not responsible for misprints in promotional materials or errors at local stacking events. Sponsor reserves the right to cancel local stacking events or disqualify contestants in the event of non-compliance with these official rules. Where legal, acceptance of prizes constitutes permission of winner's parent/legal guardian to use winner's name, likeness and biographical information for advertising, publicity purposes, and any and all rights to said use, without further compensation. Parent/legal guardian of contestant agrees that Nabisco Biscuit Company, Nabisco, Inc., The Walt Disney Co., participating retail stores, and their respective subsidiaries, affiliates and their respective employees, officers, directors and agencies will have no liability whatsoever for any injuries, losses or damages of any kind caused by contestant's participation in the contest, or resulting from contestant's acceptance, possession, use/misuse of prizes.

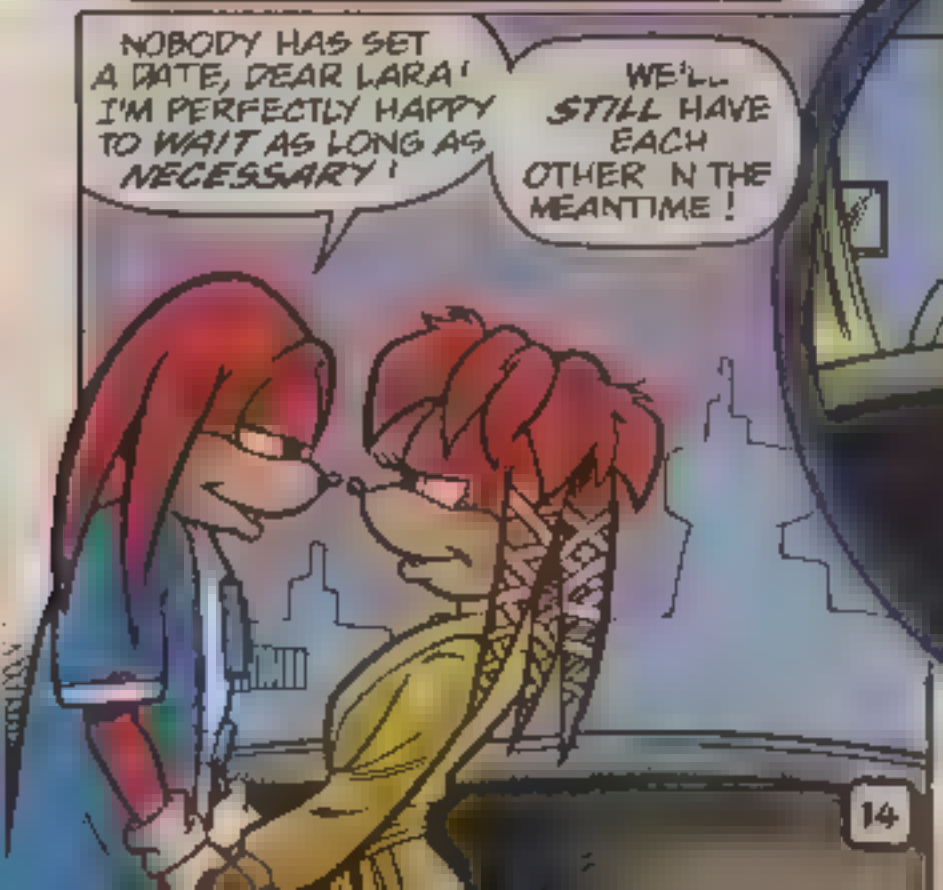
6. WINNERS LIST. For a list of major prize winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope before November 10, 1999 to: All Oreo Stacking Winner's List, Innovia Marketing, 9401 73rd Avenue N., # 400, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428.

Sponsored by Nabisco Biscuit Company, 100 Deforest Avenue, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1911


--OR I GO NUTS!
STRANGE!
I WOULD SWEAR THAT LOOKS LIKE KNUCKLES!
A GEMSTONE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, DARLING!
WYN!
I'M SORRY! I WAS JUST THINKING!


A BLIND MAN COULD SEE THAT, DARLING!
ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON YOUR MIND?
I WAS MAINLY THINKING ABOUT KNUCKLES!

HE HASN'T SAID MUCH SINCE WE ANNOUNCED OUR INTENTION TO BE MARRIED!*
I KEEP WONDERING IF MAYBE WE'RE MOVING FASTER THAN HE CAN HANDLE AT THIS TIME!
*ISSUE #16 SOCIETY PAGE EDITOR JUSTIN


NOBODY HAS SET A DATE, DEAR LARA! I'M PERFECTLY HAPPY TO WAIT AS LONG AS NECESSARY!
WE'LL STILL HAVE EACH OTHER IN THE MEANTIME!

BZZZZZ!

..UH..WHA-?

WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE?

YES?

I WAS WONDERING IF THE LADY OF THE HOUSE IS DOING ANYTHING THIS WEEKEND!

SHE MAY--OR SHE MAY NOT BE! THAT ALL DEPENDS!

DEPENDS ON WHAT?

DEPENDS ON WHATEVER YOU WISH TO ASK!

MAKE THIS HARDER, WHY DON'T YOU?

WE...er..um, IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING FRIDAY EVENING, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON A DATE--

--WITH ME, THAT IS!

UH, ANYTHING SPECIAL YOU HAVE IN MIND?

I HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT, YET!

I JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK YOU AND GO FROM THERE!

OKAY, THEN! FRIDAY NIGHT'S A DATE!

YESSSSSSS!

I'LL BE HERE AT 8 X!

GREAT! I'LL SEE YOU THEN!

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

SHE SAID YES!
NOW WHAT DO I DO? WHERE DO I TAKE HER? WHAT DOES SHE LIKE TO DO?
THIS IS CRAZY! I JUST ASKED SOMEONE TO GO OUT WITH ME AND I HAVEN'T A CLUE HOW TO ACT!
MAYBE THIS WAS A BAD IDEA!
HE SAID YES!
FINALLY!
WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS! AS LONG AS WE RE TOGETHER!
It's GRUNCH TIME, gang, but will our boy come through in the clinch? We'll find out NEXT ISSUE!

Those Were The Days...

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN INTO?

NIC THE WEASEL OFFERS TO HELP ME LOCATE RAY THE SQUIRREL--

--IN EXCHANGE FOR HELPING HER LOCATE THE GEMSTONES MINED IN ROBOTNIK'S SLAVE LABOR CAMPS!

BUT NOW, I'M CONFRONTED BY A GHOST FROM THE PAST--

FIONA FOX!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE--

WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS
ILLUSTRATED BY MANNY GALAN AND ANDREW PEPOY
COLORED BY BARRY GROSSMAN
LETTERED BY VICKIE WILLIAMS
EDITED BY J. F. GABRIE

--DEAD?!! HARDLY!

AND NO THANKS TO YOU OR THE HEDGEHOG!

THAT'S NOT FAIR, FIONA!

MAYBE SONIC AND I WEREN'T ABLE TO SAVE EVERYONE BUT WE DID THE BEST WE COULD!

THAT'S YOUR VERSION, MIGHTY!

CUT IT OUT, YOU TWO--

--YOU WANT TO HASH DIFFERENCES, DO IT ON YOUR OWN TIME!
C'MON!
WE'VE A LOT TO DO, AND NOT MUCH TIME TO DO IT IN!
WHERE'S YOUR HEAD AT, FIONA? YOU KNOW WE NEED MIGHTY IF WE'RE TO FIND THE BOX!
I'M SORRY, NIC!
I JUST GOT EDGY WAITING AROUND FOR YOU GUYS!
YEAH! I CAN SEE WHY! JUST LOOKING AT THE PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT! I STILL GET THE CHILLS EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT!
OF ALL THE PLACES I'VE EVER BEEN TO-
--I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY WE WERE BROUGHT HERE.
WE-DO-NOT-TOLERATE-SLACKERS-OF-ANY-KIND!
YOU-WILL-BE-PUT-TO-WORK-IMMEDIATELY!
NOT-SO-FAST!
WE-HAVE OTHER-PLANS-FOR-YOU!
NO! NO!! LET ME GO!!

"WITHOUT THINKING, I LUNGED AT THE *YARD GUARD.*"

YOU *HEARD* THE LADY, BUB!

LEAVE HER ALONE!

WHA--?!

DOOW!!

HEY!!

N-N-NO FAIR *KICKING* AN ARMADILLO WHEN HE'S *D-D-DOWN!*

THIS-DOES-NOT-COMPUTE!

GUARDS! GUARDS! WHERE-ARE THE REINFORCEMENTS?!!

RIGHT *HERE* BUT NOT ON *YOUR* SIDE!

"IN ANY EVENT, WE NEVER STOOD A CHANCE--NOT AT THAT MOMENT..."

DROP-YOUR-WEAPON

YOU-WILL-ALL-NOW-CEASE-AND-DESIST

--OR-ELSE-RISK-OBLITERATION!

AS-FOR-YOU--

--YOU'RE-STILL-WANTED-BY THE-DOCTOR!

"ALL WE COULD DO IS *HELPLESSLY* WATCH--"

--AFTER WHICH THEY THREW RAY AND ME INTO THE COOLER!*

HEY, MIGHTY! QUIT DAYDREAMING!

WE WON'T ACCOMPLISH A THING BY STAYING HERE!

I STILL THINK NOTHING IS WORTH RETURNING HERE FOR!

CAN'T SAY I BLAME MIGHTY, NIC!

I'M HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS MYSELF!

*SLANG FOR SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. JUSTIN.

IT'S SPOOKY HOW EVERYTHING IS STILL STANDING—LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED!

THERE'S THE COOLER, AND THE PRISONER BARRACKS BEYOND THAT!

YOU GUYS CAN CHECK OUT THE MAIN BUILDING WHILE I SIT THIS ONE OUT!

FORGET IT, FIONA! YOU'RE EITHER WITH US ALL THE WAY OR NOT AT ALL!

BESIDES, THERE'S NO ONE BUT US HERE!

OH, YEAH? LOOKS LIKE A FAMILY REUNION TO ME!

LOOK! THERE'S SONIC!

NO, IT'S NOT!
NONE OF THEM ARE REAL!
THEY'RE JUST REPLICAS CREATED BY ROBOTNIK!
WAS THAT THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THIS CAMP--
--BUILDING THESE ROBOTS?
WHICH RAISES AN INTERESTING QUESTION--
"WHILE SITTING ALL ALONE ON THE FLOOR OF MY CELL, I SAW THE BEATEN LIKENESS OF..
SONIC!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!!
NEVER MIND!
-PUFF -PUFF...
HERE!
INSERT THAT CARD INTO THE SLOT ON YOUR SHACKLES--
--AND THAT OUGHTTA DO THE TRICK!
KLIK
NOW YOU STAND BACK--
--AND SEE WHY THEY CALL ME MIGHTY!
WHOA!
REMIND ME TO NEVER TICK YOU OFF!
NOW, LET'S FREE RAY!
IXNAY!
WE'RE GONNA DO MORE THAN SAVE A COUPLE OF BUDS!
FOLLOW ME!
"LOOKING AT THIS INANIMATE ROBOT--"

--WAS I DEALING THEN WITH THE REAL SONIC--
--OR WHAT?
THE ROBOTS WERE ONLY A PART OF IT, MIGHTY!
BUT IF THE INFO I FOUND IS CORRECT--
--THIS IS WHERE THE REAL PAYDAY IS!
ABRACADABRA! WE'RE IN!
WHERE DOES THIS CORRIDOR LEAD TO?
HOPEFULLY, WHAT WE CAME FOR!
WHAT ABOUT RAY?
I NEVER SAID WE'D FIND HIM HERE!
I ONLY CLAIMED TO KNOW WHERE HE COULD BE FOUND!
THAT IS--
-IF YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN, SPORT!
THAT'S THE OBJECTIVE--
--AND ONLY YOU CAN OPEN IT UP!
HOPEFULLY--
--FOR RAY'S SAKE!
TO BE CONTINUED...

OFF PANEL by Gallagher, Manak & Amash

THIS JUST IN!

Hello, Knux fans! Hope you're enjoying The First Date starring Knuckles and Julie-Su in this three-part romantic comedy. Please write in and tell us what you think about it.

As mentioned in a previous column, there is a new Sonic & Knuckles strip that is currently seeing print in Comic Shop News (CSN), a free weekly fanzine. For those of you who cannot find CSN, don't fret -- we will be reprinting those stories in the pages of a future SONIC SUPER SPECIAL! More on this later.

On another note, the following comments on Prince Elias Acorn (a character that was first introduced in KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #19-21: The Forbidden Zone) is reprinted from an edition of This Just In printed in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #73:

Re: The age of young Prince Elias Acorn. There has been much discussion on the Sonic internet chat-room concerning an answer to a letter about his age. It was stated that the Prince was five years old when he disappeared. Their opinion was that it wasn't possible since the artwork clearly showed him to be a toddler. They were right. It was an incorrect assumption. Elias should be about two years of age when these events took place. Thanks to all who voiced their opinion, for it helped set the record straight.

J.F. GABRIE
Editor / Art Director

Catch you on the flip side!

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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

It's that time again, fans. Letters time! The following three letters are just a sampling of your opinions on whether Knuckles should be with Sally or Julie-Su...

Dear Knuckles,

In issue #21, you asked if anyone else agreed with Audra Sunderlin... well, I'm not one. I think you and Julie-Su were destined to meet. How can she say she's not right for you? You both like action, you both are sexy, witty, and tough. I really think Julie-Su knows how you feel about her cause she gets shy when she mentions you.

Wishing you luck,
Cara B.
Allan, Sask.
Canada

Dear J.F.G.

I'm writing this letter regarding Audra Sunderlin's letter in Knuckles: Dark Alliance Part 2 (issue #21). I must say that I strongly disagree with her matchmaking: Knuckles with Sally! I think Knuckles would be better off with Julie-Su. Leave Princess Sally with Sonic. I think it's obvious that they're in love.

Andy Yuan
Flayyuan@aol.com

Dear Knuckles,

I don't agree with Audra Sunderlin! Some matchmaker! You and Sally just aren't an item. You two have nothing in common! Sally relies on Nicole and her little laser thing to save her. Sally is completely helpless! Julie-Su can fight for herself, plus she and you are my favorite characters.

Your pal,
Brianna McAuley
Cumberland House
Canada

Thanks to all who wrote in expressing their views on the subject. For those of you who want to jump on board and take sides, write in.

Re: KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #21:

Dear Knuckles,

Out of all the characters in Archie Comics, you're my favorite. I just got done with KNUCKLES #21. I wonder how Knuckles is going to get rid of the Dark Legion this time. I have a few questions: 1) In one of the back-up stories in SONIC #14-16, Knuckles had a line-up of the Brotherhood that didn't have Sabre in it. Why? 2) I don't have KNUCKLES #2 but I have #1 and #3. Are you going to get individual comics on the checklist? Until next time, your #1 fan...

David
Die117@aol.com

What's up, David? The stories printed in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #14-16 were from Knuckles' point-of-view. At that time, Knuckles didn't have a clear idea what each of his ancestors looked like so he imagined them the way he did.

To the great story writers at Archie Comics,

Great plot developments in #21! Since Dimitri seems to have already put a few loose ends out of his mind, I'm looking forward to Locke and Spectre kicking some butt real soon. I have a few questions: 1) Where did Xenin come from? 2) Why is Dimitri still so evil? 3) Why didn't the Brotherhood improve their security after Morton's Rex's identity was revealed? 4) What enables the members of the Brotherhood to live so long? and 5) Why doesn't Knuckles ever wear Hawking's hat?

Nanaki
nanaki@pscrocks.com

Answers to your questions: 1) Xenin is one of the Dark Legion's most technologically advanced soldiers. This is just the first time we've seen him without his Legionaire robe. 2) If you ask Dimitri, he will be the first to tell you he doesn't think he's evil at all. He's just using whatever means necessary to change Echidna politics to agree and support his views, as well as those in The Dark Legion. 3) They did. It obviously wasn't enough. 4) It is assumed that their special connection to The Chaos Emerald keeps them all long-lived. and 5) Knuckles keeps Hawking's hat safe in his dwelling away from Echidnapolis.

Well, that's it for this month. Thank you all for your comments. See you in thirty. And remember...

KEEP COOL!

Cover by Patrick Spaziante and Ken Penders. Colors and separations by Darrin Moore and Heroic Age.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In one week: The Freedom Fighters reunite in secret and blast off into orbit to investigate the mysterious satellites (that have formed to become a massive space station) and who might be behind it all. You have three guesses -- and the first two don't count! "The Truth Is Out There" is written by Karl Bollers with art by Butler and Eklund! Also: "Tales of the Great War, Pt. 3." By Ken Penders, Art Mawhinney and Jim Amash!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #74 on sale late June 1999!

Next Month: Now that Knuckles has asked Julie-Su on a date, he realizes that an even greater problem exists: What will they do on the date? He becomes so absorbed with this dilemma, he completely forgets about his upcoming 16th birthday! Check out "It Could Be Love (I Should Have Known Better)" written by Ken Penders with art by Chris Allan and Andrew Pepoy! Also, the conclusion to the Mighty solo story by Penders, Galán and Pepoy.

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #28 on sale early July 1999!

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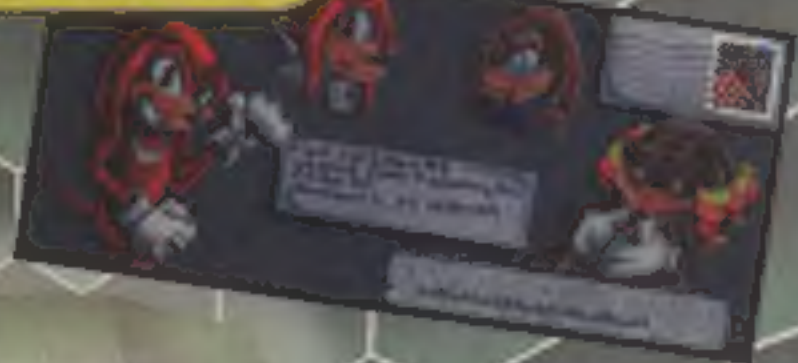

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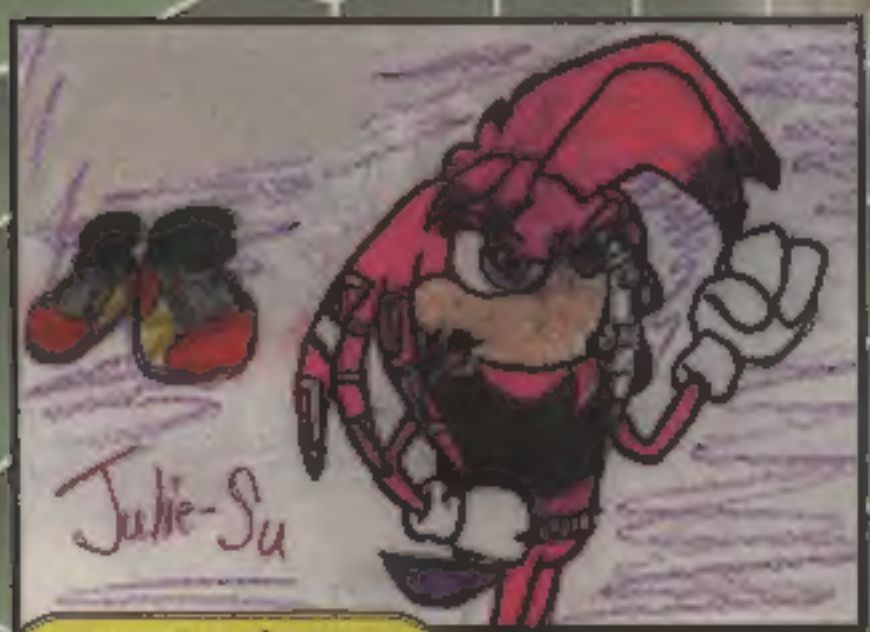

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